



Testimony by Chancellor David G. Carter
Connecticut State University System
Before the Higher Education and
Employment Advancement Committee
February 9, 2010

Good morning, Senator Handley, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. For the record, I am David Carter, Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS). Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today. We are grateful for your advocacy for higher education and the difference it can make, not only for our students but for our state.

I would like to comment briefly on two bills raised by the Committee.

House Bill 5026, *An Act Concerning a Reallocation of Funds Within the CSUS 2020 Infrastructure Improvement Program.*

First, I would ask for your support of a technical revision to the CSUS 2020 program, which will permit a transfer of funds as approved by our Board of Trustees. The Board voted to reallocate funds in Phase 1 of the CSUS 2020 plan, reducing the *Land and Property Acquisition* line by \$5,000,000 and adding \$5,000,000 to the *Telecommunications Infrastructure Upgrade* line. We are seeking your approval because state statute requires that any line item change equal to or greater than 5% of the line item total, if the line item is greater than \$1 million, requires "a request by the board of trustees for, and enactment of, a subsequent public or special act approving" the revision. The proposed revision falls within these parameters. As I mentioned, this has been approved by our Board, and it has no net fiscal impact.

Property acquisition remains an important strategy for CSUS. As our enrollment grows, and given that our four universities are essentially landlocked, it will be important that we have the ability to expand our campuses to accommodate the increased need for academic and student facilities in the future. However, given the current economic situation, CSUS, like the rest of the State, must seek the most immediate beneficial use of limited resources.

In the case of the requested reprogramming of \$5,000,000 from Property Acquisition to Telecommunications Equipment, a system-wide Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Project will result in important efficiencies which will enable CSUS to benefit students by maintaining a robust technological environment, enhance overall operational security and result in the avoidance of future costs that would otherwise be incurred if these upgrades are not completed. The Project will include a phased-in approach at Eastern Connecticut State University, the System Office, Southern Connecticut State University, Western Connecticut State University and, finally, Central Connecticut State University.

There are approximately four major tasks to a VOIP roll-out, including a needs analysis, evaluation and procurement of products, network and infrastructure improvements, and final roll-out. The VOIP realm will include items such as basic telephone features, commercial products, Voice Mail requirements, remote office/Disaster Recovery (DR) features, and Video Conferencing. This proposed legislative change will allow for half of the project to be completed with the remaining funds available in Phase II of the CSUS 2020 Program.

House Bill 5024, *An Act Concerning an Education Doctoral Degree Program in Nursing Education.*

The second bill is a revision to the statutes clarifying the authority for CSUS to offer an education doctoral degree in nursing education. The current law restricts us to preparing doctoral students for teaching in public schools.

Why is this Ed.D in nursing education necessary? Well, to put it simply, Connecticut needs more nurses. Therefore, we need more nursing faculty to educate more nurses. There is a strong and growing need for nurse educators at both two and four year institutions. We estimate that we will prepare **80 new faculty** over the next ten years – allowing for an addition of **2,000 new nurses** by 2024. Southern and Western are preparing to implement the degree program in the spring of 2011. It is expected that the first cohort will be enrolled in the fall of 2011. The plan calls for adding two faculty members each year for the first four years. We have received \$300,000 in federal funding in FY 2010 to proceed, so I am proud to say that no new State dollars are required.

This Ed. D. in nursing education program will provide a clear pathway for nurse educators to advance their careers. And it does so in an innovative way, with Southern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University offering a joint program. This collaboration is a cost-effective use of resources and will establish a program of the highest caliber, building on a number of thriving nursing education programs at these institutions.

The CSUS Board of Trustees is to be voting on it in the coming weeks, and, once the statutory revision is approved, it will then be submitted to the Board of Governors for Higher Education for final approval later this spring.

This plan has received the strong endorsement of the Connecticut Community Colleges and hospitals, such as Danbury Hospital, Mid-State Medical Center, Hartford Hospital and Yale-New Haven. It has the support of the Connecticut Nurses Association and the Connecticut and National Leagues for Nursing. It has been endorsed by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing and leading nursing education institutions inside and outside Connecticut. And the chair of the Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board views this as a much-needed step for Connecticut.

At this time, I would like to provide an opportunity for the Presidents of Southern and Western, as well as the faculty leaders of this effort, to provide you with more of the details, and then we will be available to answer any questions you may have.